

John Eller  
5418 Forest Ave  
Alexandria, VA 22310

Virginia Air Board  
c/o Terry Darton  
Air Permit Manager  
13901 Crown Court  
Woodbridge, VA 22193

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Northern Va. Region  
Dept. of Env. Quality

Dear Air Board,

The Mirant Power plant has been a fixture in the Alexandria area for many years. In that time they have taken all necessary steps to stay within state and federal standards for environmentally safe production. They have also received proper certification from the International Organization of Standards for their sound environmental management. After all of this effort, it is both unfair and unreasonable that this plant be closed down.

I realize the important function that Mirant serves in our area and we support the plant and its continued production. It may be lost on others who want the plant closed, but they enjoy electricity just as much as the rest of us. The DEQ/Mirant Consent Order represents a compromise by the Mirant plant. In exchange for a secure future in Alexandria, they are willing to spend the millions of dollars it will take to create a stack merge to mitigate downwash. Having already lowered levels of sulfur dioxide and nitrous oxide emissions, this is another building block of responsible stewardship.

There are no other viable sources for this energy and closing this plant to gain some waterfront property will strain the stations that would have to pick up the surplus in its absence. This would create a strain on an industry that already appears to be lagging behind population growth.

It seems only fair that we allow them the opportunity to make these improvements and continue their vital production. It is extremely unfair to level a charge against someone and then hinder their ability to prove you wrong. If the Mirant station is as bad as it has been portrayed to be, there should be no reason to fear that they will be able to do that. Support the DEQ/Mirant Consent Order and give them a chance to sink or swim without having their hands and feet tied.

Best regards,

John Eller

